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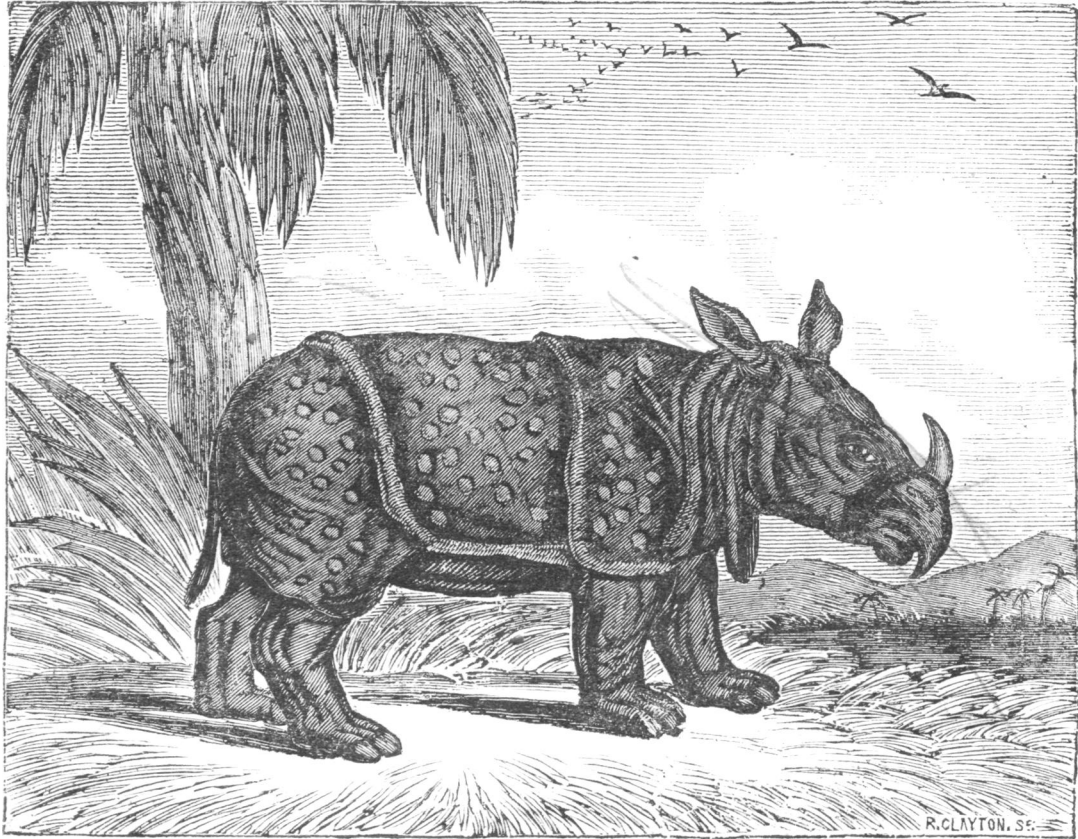
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eminently useful; it may, indeed, be styled the grand emporium of political wisdom—by it the experience of the parts is concentrated into one mass, and made to bear upon the exigencies of the present, and thus the result and working of measures, which otherwise would be but speculatively conjectural, is foreseen with almost the certainty of a mathematical demonstration. By history a new element is added to our being—we become creatures not only of the present, but also of the past, and, in many cases, of the future. It is history which expands and en-

larges our views—it gives to our minds that firm, discursive, ubiquitous power by which they are not confined to a particular locality, but become denizens of other countries. By history, the circle of our existence and of our social affections is enlarged; with it we feel the general bond of union between us and our fellow-creatures of all ages. Maintained without it, the connecting link would be broken, and we would be mere isolated creatures in a world that had no peculiar associations but those of animal instinct to attach us to it.

W. R.



Nelson, del.

THE RHINOCEROS.

The above animal, lately exhibited in the Zoological Gardens, is of the Indian species, (*Rhinoceros Indicus*.) He was taken about fifteen hundred miles from Calcutta by some Indigo planters, (the particular place is not known,) where he had, with his mother, been doing great mischief. A pit was prepared, in which both of them were caught. The mother was so savage, that they were obliged to kill her. The young one was sent to Calcutta, where it was shipped on board the William Farleigh, East Indiaman, for London, and arrived there in June, 1854. It was purchased by Mr. Atkins of the Liverpool Zoological Gardens for the sum of one thousand pounds. It is at present in excellent health, and has grown four inches in height since his arrival in England, and bulky in proportion. He is now four years old, and it is supposed he will grow till he is twelve. His present height is four feet eight inches; and in length he is nine feet. Notwithstanding the thickness of his skin, he is sensible to the slightest touch of even the smallest stick. He is very indolent, never rising except when driven to do so by the keeper. He does not possess in the least degree the sagacity of the elephant; on the contrary, he appears to be a very heavy dull animal.

The rhinoceros, we are told, at the age of two years, is not taller than a young cow that has never produced. But his body is very long and very thick. His head is disproportionally large. From the ears to the horn there is a concavity, the two extremities of which, namely, the upper end of the muzzle, and the part near the ears, are considerably raised. The horn is black, smooth at the top, but full of wrinkles, directed backward

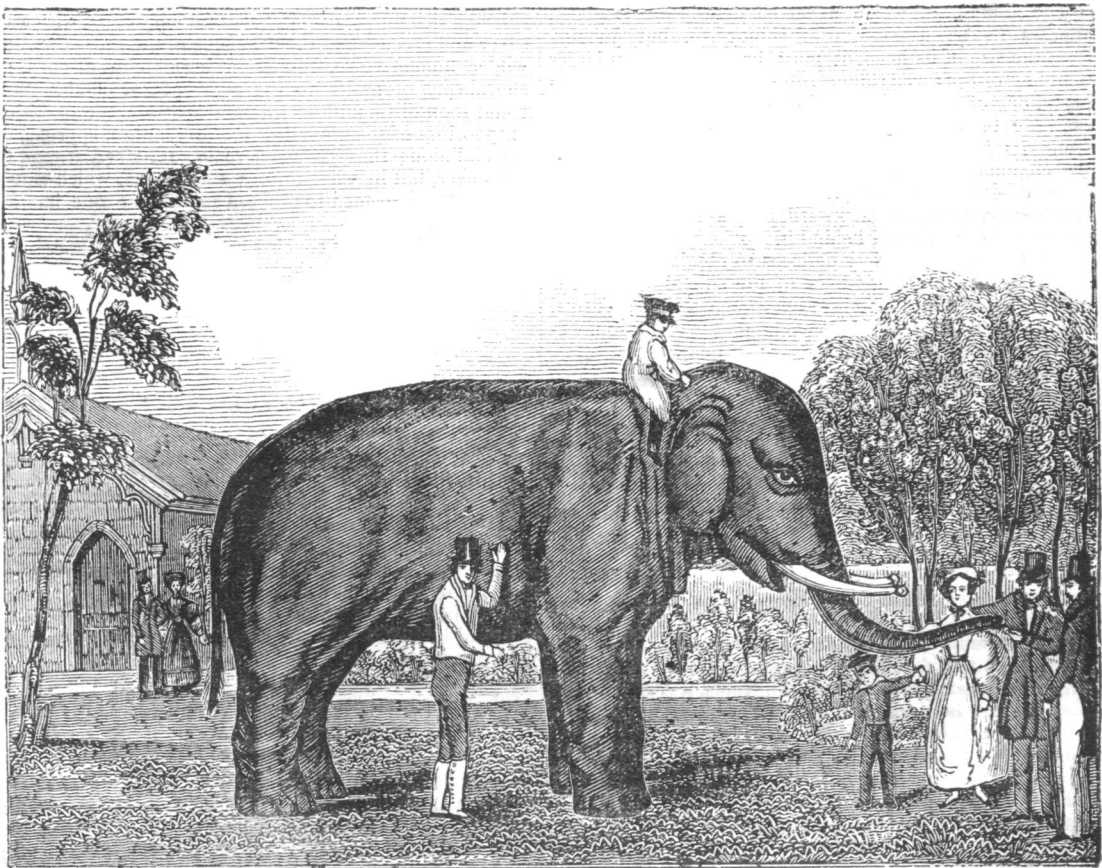
at the base. The nostrils are situated very low, being not above an inch from the opening of the mouth. The under lip is pretty similar to that of the ox; but the upper lip has a greater resemblance to that of the horse, with this advantageous difference, that the rhinoceros can lengthen this lip, move it from side to side, roll it about a staff, and seize with it any object he wishes to carry to his mouth. The tongue of the young rhinoceros is soft, like that of a calf. His eyes, in figure, resemble those of the hog, but situated lower, or nearer the nostrils, than in any other quadruped. His ears are large, thin at the extremities, and contracted at their origin by a kind of angular rugosity. The neck is very short, and surrounded with two large folds of skin. The shoulders are very thick, and at their juncture there is another fold of skin, which descends upon the fore legs. The legs are round, thick, strong, and their joint bent backwards. This joint, which, when the animal lies, is covered with a remarkable fold of the skin, appears when he stands. The tale is thin, and proportionally short. It becomes a little thicker at the extremity, which is garnished with some short, thick, hard hairs. The female exactly resembles the male in figure and grossness of body. The skin is every where covered more or less with incrustations in the form of galls or tuberosities, which are pretty small on the top of the neck and back, but become larger on the sides. The largest are on the shoulders and crupper, are still pretty large on the thighs and legs, upon which they are spread all round, and even on the feet. But between the folds the skin is penetrable, delicate, and as soft to the touch as silk while the external part of the fold is equally hard with

the rest. This tender skin between the folds is of a light flesh colour; and the skin of the belly is nearly of the same colour and consistence. These galls or tuberosities should not be compared, as some authors have done, to scales. They are only simple indurations of the skin, without any regularity in their figure or symmetry in their respective positions. The flexibility of the skin in the folds enables the rhinoceros to move with facility his head, neck, and members. The whole body, except at the joints, is inflexible, and resembles a coat of mail. Dr. Parsons remarks that this animal listened with a deep and long continued attention to any kind of noise; and that, though he was sleeping or eating, he raised his head, and listened till the noise ceased. These animals never assemble or march together in troops like elephants. Being of a more solitary and savage disposition, they are more difficult to hunt and to overcome. They never attack men, however, except when they are provoked, when they are very furious and formidable; but as they see only before them, and as they turn with great difficulty, they may be easily avoided. The skin of these animals is so extremely hard as to resist sabres, lances, javelins, and even musket balls, the only penetrable parts being the belly, the eyes, and about the ears. Hence the hunters generally attack them when they lie down to sleep. Their flesh is considered as excellent by the Indians and Africans, but especially by the Hottentots; and, if they were trained when young, they might be rendered domestic, in which case they would multiply more easily than the elephant. They inhabit Bengal, Siam, Cochinchina, the isles of Java and

Sumatra, Congo, Ethiopia, and the country as low as the Cape. They love shady forests, the neighbourhood of rivers, and marshy places. They wallow in the mire like hogs, and thus give shelter in the folds of their skins to scorpions, centipedes, and other insects. Buffon and Edwards deny this; but it is generally thought to be true. They bring forth only one young at a time, about which they are very solicitous. Their skin, flesh, hoofs, teeth, and even dung, are used in India medicinally. The horn, especially that of a virgin rhinoceros, is considered as an antidote against poison. This species is supposed to be the oryx or Indian ass of Aristotle; and the bos unicornis or fera monoceros of Pliny. Many writers also consider it as the unicorn of Scripture.

Naturalists describe two species, the Indian and the African; and two varieties of the Indian species, the Sumatran and the Javan. The Indian is distinguished from the African species by having *one* horn on the nose, and a *folded* skin; while the latter has *two* horns, and a *smooth* skin.

The hide of the rhinoceros is used for a variety of purposes, among which the most curious is, perhaps, that to which it is put by our cotton manufacturers. It is the only substance known that perfectly answers the purpose of knocking the shuttle of the power-loom backwards and forwards; all others speedily wear out with the repeated blows of the shuttle point, and are also deficient in elasticity. The Indian warriors set a high value upon shields covered with the skin. The horns are made into drinking goblets, and are sometimes thought worthy of being set in gold and silver.



Neison, del.

THE ELEPHANT.

The above is a correct representation of the fine animal at present exhibiting in the Zoological Gardens in the Phoenix Park. It is of the Indian species; ten years of age; seven feet four inches in height, and in length from head to tail nine feet two inches.

Girth of the Animal	..	..	..	14 feet 7 inches
From the forehead to point of trunk	..	..	..	6 11
Length of the ear	..	..	..	1 9

Breadth of the ear	..	..	..	1 foot 7 inches
Length of tusks	..	..	..	1 10
Length of tail	..	..	..	4 7

Having in the 145th number of our last volume given a description of the elephant, with some interesting anecdotes serving to make known his peculiar manners and habits, as well as his extraordinary instinct, we refer our readers to that number for further particulars.